

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment and remarks which follow are responsive to the Office Action mailed December 23, 2003. An RCE was filed on June 5, 2003. A response to the Office Action of February 5, 2003 was filed on June 5, 2003 along with the RCE. An Office Action was sent on July 28, 2003 objecting to the format of the amendment filed on June 5, 2003. An Amendment was filed on August 18, 2003 to correct the format errors. That amendment presented only the amended claims 24 and 27. The Office Action of December 23, 2003 again objected to the format because the other new claims (23, 25-26 and 28-31) were not again presented in the re-formatted amendment. This amendment includes all of the claims added in the present reissue application (Claims 23-31).

Status of Claims

Claims 1-31 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-22 are the original claims of issue Patent No. 6,171,102 B1. Claims 23-31 are new claims in the application which were originally presented in the reissue application filed January 9, 2001. Claims 24 and 27 were amended on June 5, 2003.

Certificate under 37 CFR 3.73(b)

The Office Action also stated that the certificate under 37 CFR 3.73(B) is incomplete since no reel/frame or evidence of assignment was provided. The assignment was recorded on October 28, 2002 at reel 013462, frame 0142. A copy of the notice of recordation of assignment document is submitted herewith.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the stated grounds of rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any suggestions for expediting allowance of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the number listed below.

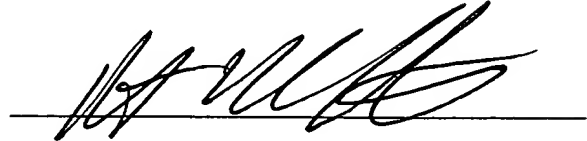
If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 19-4330.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

1/6/04

By:



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